

Education Trunks and Teacher Resources

Want to add more to your bag of tricks or need some new ideas for lessons? Check out one of our Education Trunks below. Each trunk includes teacher resources, education kits, and ready made materials for your class.



- Aqua Trunk
- Bats and Birds of Prey
- Life Cycle of Insects
- Skins & Skulls
- Stream of Life Salmon
- The Tree Trunk
- Track Molds
- Wilderness & Land Ethics
- Wolf Trunk



*In the end, we will conserve only what we love...
We will love only what we understand...
We will understand only what we are taught.*

-Chinese Philosopher, Lao-Tsu



Please contact us for more information and to schedule a program. Note: programs can be adapted for any age, the listed are just suggested.



Sawtooth National Recreation Area
5 North Fork Canyon Road
Ketchum, ID 83340
Phone: 208-727-5000
Office: 208-727-5012
E-mail: sarin.lomascolo@usda.gov

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Sawtooth Education Program



Sawtooth National Recreation Area



Sawtooth National Forest
USDA Forest Service

Classroom Programs:

Skin, Skulls & Scat: Pre-K–1st

What animal is it? Explore the many different animals that live in the Sawtooth NRA through their skin, skull, and scat. Animals share different traits if they are predators, omnivores, or prey or similar ones if they are in the same family. Whether you are out on the trail looking for animal signs, in the SNRA, or in your classroom you can learn how to identify animals by their tracks, fur and scat. Make a plaster mold of tracks and take one home!



Life in the Dark: K-1st

Explore what it would be like to live in the dark. Nocturnal animals like owls and bats must adapt to find food, escape from predators, protect their young, and adjust their bodies to hot or cold temperatures. This lesson explores how these animals use each adaptation to help them live in the night. This program can be done as a puppet show for younger ages or using senses, activities and games for older students.

Rock-Cycling: 2nd

Use your observational skills to look at the differences in rock types, watch a crayon demonstration to see how rocks change form, and try going through the rock cycle.

Wonderful World of Wolves: 3rd-5th

Learn about the history of wolves and their reintroduction into this area. Reintroducing a large predator such as the wolf back into the wilderness has created an abundance of biodiversity in this ecosystem. Explore how wolves work together in packs, hunt, and how they affect wetlands.



Landforms and Glaciers: 4th

Whether you're exploring plate tectonics, minerals, types of erosion, or glaciers – we've got it all! Go through geologic history and use ice cube glaciers to create landforms.

Ranger Careers: HS

Ever wonder about a career in natural resources? Check out all the different Ranger Careers at the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and other public lands. Find out what the different careers involve, talk with a ranger about their experiences, and maybe even set up a volunteer opportunity.

Field Programs

Animal Habitats: 2nd

What habitats are in the Sawtooth NRA? Who lives in these different habitats and how are they adapted to live in them? Find out what it would be like to be a beaver, flippers and all! Explore the Sawtooth NRA on a hike through different habitats and create nature art along the way.

Predator and Prey: 3rd

Be a detective and try to figure out what animal is at each station by looking at their fur, scat and tracks. Learn the differences between predators, omnivores and prey. Hike around the SNRA to look for animal signs and identify different trees and plants. Become an animal and find out how everything is interconnected in a food web.

Macro-Invertebrates- 5th-HS

Think globally about where all the water is located and how much is freshwater. Then think local, looking at watersheds and how water can become polluted. Become a citizen scientist and complete a stream survey to find out if the creeks in the Sawtooth NRA are clean by looking at whether the macro-invertebrates can tolerate pollution. Use chemical testing to find out what specific pollution, if any, is found in the creek. Consider how we can conserve water for future use and look at what animals live in and near water.



Swimming Upstream: MS

Ever feel like you're swimming upstream? Well, salmon do, at least for their 900 mile migration returning from the Pacific Ocean back to spawn in Redfish Lake later in life. Learn about the life cycle of salmon, how they change from freshwater to salt water fish, and all the barriers to their migration. Become a salmon and test out your skills by trying to smell your way home and complete an obstacle course to see if you could make the migration.



Wilderness Survival: MS – HS

What essentials do you need if you hike into the backcountry? How can you survive in the wilderness? Find out how to build a shelter, start a fire, filter water and even make a solar oven. Learn some basic plant and mushroom identification, figure out what is edible and inedible and do a skit about the 'leave no trace' principles to help take care of the wilderness areas.



Winter Programs: SNRA or Galena Snowshoe Programs

Hibernate, Migrate or Tolerate: Pre-K-3rd

Ever wonder where animals go in the winter? Do they fly south, hibernate or put on their jacket to tolerate the cold winter months? Using a fun dress-up activity, students will find out what animals do in the winter. This is also a great pre-site program before coming or as the introduction on your field trip.

Winter Adaptations: K-2nd

How do animals tolerate the cold winter months? Some change the color of their fur, others make a home nestled below the snow, while others have big feet like snowshoes so they can walk on top. Look for signs of animals that have adapted to stay here all winter long and find out what changes they make. Includes a puppet show for younger ages.

Winter Wildlife Tracking: 3rd – 5th

What is different about winter? What traits do animals have that help them to survive in the winter. Figure out what adaptation each animal has for winter. Go snowshoeing to track animals, play games and look for signs of animals in the snow.

Snow Science 3rd-5th

Why does winter happen? How do snowflakes form? Find out what makes this winter wonderland so amazing while also looking at how the animals that live here are able to survive. Look for animal tracks and signs in the snow to find out what they do in the winter. Dig a snow pit to look at the different layers of snow and what it might be like to live underneath the snow. Find out how animals and plants are interconnected in the food web.

Idaho Mining History & Winter Ecology : 4th

While snowshoeing up at Galena, find out about the rich mining history of the area. Learn about how mining impacted this area. Find out how animals and plants are interconnected and survive in the winter.



Winter Survival: MS & HS

Find out how to survive in the winter. Everything from how to be prepared to what to do if you're out overnight and have to build a snow cave, what to do in an avalanche and how to read your surroundings.